

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 (ADP) W

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4489

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 1043

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS

TAGS: MOPS, IS, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY

REF: AMMAN 5237; STATE 194592; STATE 194280

1. WE HAVE MENTIONED REPORTS OF SYRIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY TO RELIABLE US SOURCE IN UNTSO. SOURCE HIMSELF RETURNED FROM DAMASCUS SEPTEMBER 26. DURING COURSE OF THAT TRIP HE ALSO VISITED ALL BUT ONE UNTSO OP ON SYRIAN SIDE OF LINE. HE TRAVELED BY CAR THROUGHOUT.

2. SOURCE STATED DISPOSITION MEN AND EQUIPMENT VISIBLE FROM DAMASCUS-KUNEITRA ROAD WAS GENERALLY UNCHANGED FROM HIS PREVIOUS TRIP IN JANUARY 1973. HE SAW NO EVIDENCE OF LARGE SCALE MOVEMENTS OF MEN OR EQUIPMENT. THERE WAS IN FACT LESS EQUIPMENT VISIBLE IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SECTORS OF SYRIAN-ISRAEL CEASEFIRE LINE. HE SPECIFICALLY NOTED SEEING FEWER TANKS AND FEWER ARTILLERY PIECES. NO MISSILES APPARENT NEAR BORDER. ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN PLACEMENT SEEMED UNALTERED; HE OBSERVED SOME IN NORTHERN SECTOR, NONE IN CENTER OR SOUTH.

3. SOURCE COMMENTED THERE SEEMED TO BE NO URGENCY IN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN AREA OF CEASEFIRE LINES. TROOPS SEEN UNARMED, MOVING ABOUT IN SMALL GROUPS AND SINGLY. SECURITY ABOUT SAME AS IN  
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JANUARY.

4. AS EXCEPTION TO GENERAL PATTERN, SOURCE DID NOTE THAT SINCE HIS JANUARY VISIT SYRIANS HAD CONSTRUCTED LINE OF DEFENSIVE

WORKS IN 90 DEGREE ARC TO WEST AND SOUTH OF DAMASCUS, RELATIVELY CLOSE TO CITY. CONSISTED OF T-34 TANK TURRETS MOUNTED ON CEMENT PILLBOXES, ABOUT EVERY 100-200 METERS, WITH DITCH AND EARTH MOUND BEHIND.

5. DURING HIS STAY IN DAMASCUS, SOURCE VISITED WITH SENIOR SYRIAN ARAB DELEGATE TO UNTSO (COL. TAYARA) AND WAS TAKEN FOR BRIEF CALL ON INTERIOR MINISTER. HE SENSED NO UNUSUAL TENSIONS AND CONVERSATIONS WERE ROUTINE.

6. UNTSO HEADQUARTERS HERE HAS HAD NO SUBSEQUENT REPORTS FROM ITS OBSERVERS OF ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITY.

7. COMMENT: SITUATION AS REPORTED BY SOURCE PRE-DATES THE TWO DAY PERIOD MENTIONED IN AMMAN REFTEL. FURTHERMORE, WHILE HIS TRIP TOOK HIM THROUGH KEY AREA, HIS SCOPE OF OBSERVATION NECESSARILY LIMITED. IT SEEMS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT TROOPS WERE NOT AT THAT TIME BEING MASSED IN GOLAN AREA. ABSENCE OF REPORTS FROM UNTSO OPS OF SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITY WOULD SEEM INDICATE THAT NOTHING OF MAJOR SCALE VISIBLE CLOSE TO CEASEFIRE LINES.  
DAY

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